



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

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## **MAN KNOWN AS ‘PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE’ IN MEXICO CAPTURED IN LOS ANGELES**

*Notorious bank robbery suspect reportedly had plastic surgery to disguise appearance*

LOS ANGELES – A former paratrooper in the Mexican military suspected in a string of violent bank robberies in Mexico City is back in his native country today following his capture by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in Los Angeles yesterday, ending a nearly two decade international manhunt.

Alfredo Rios Galeana, who had been living in Los Angeles under the alias Arturo Montoya, is featured on Mexico’s list of Most Wanted fugitives for his role in a series of bloody bank robberies that rocked Mexico City in the 1970s and 1980s. Sought in Mexico on eight felony warrants - including charges of murder, kidnapping, and robbery - Rios had been at large since his dramatic escape from a Mexican prison in 1986. Rios fled after a team of eight armed commandos showed up at the federal penitentiary where he was being held and used a hand grenade to blast a hole in the wall of the prison.

The 51-year-old was taken into custody without incident on immigration violations at his residence in South Gate by members of ICE’s fugitive operations team Monday afternoon. ICE was assisted by investigators from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) as well as investigators assigned to the Los Angeles Regional Fugitive Task Force, including Deputy United States Marshals and agents from the United States Secret Service and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rios’ arrest came after DMV investigators received a tip on the fugitive’s whereabouts in the Los Angeles area. According to DMV’s sources, he had undergone cosmetic surgery to alter his appearance. ICE verified Rios’ identity through fingerprints.

“Our message to international fugitives is that our borders will not be barriers to bringing violent criminals to justice,” said Norma Bonales, acting deputy field office director for ICE detention and removal operations in Los Angeles. “ICE is working closely with our law enforcement partners locally and around the globe to identify these individuals and take them off the streets.”

United States Marshal Adam Torres praised the outstanding cooperation that led to Rios’ arrest and vowed that the Marshals Service and its partner agencies in the Regional Fugitive Task Force are committed to making the Los Angeles area a safer place by tirelessly pursuing violent fugitives.

“No matter where you run, no matter how long you are wanted, keep looking over your shoulder, because we will be coming after you,” Torres said.

ICE coordinated closely with representatives from the Mexican Attorney General’s Office to finalize arrangements for Rios’ removal. He was taken to the port of entry at San Ysidro early this afternoon where he was met by Mexican law enforcement officials.

The identification and removal of fugitives and criminal aliens is one of ICE’s top enforcement priorities. In the last ten months, ICE’s fugitive operations teams in Los Angeles have arrested at least 17 violent Mexican fugitives, including more than 12 who are facing murder charges in Mexico.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*